

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE D-23

NEW YORK TIMES
2 FEBRUARY 1982

Draft of Order on Press Disclosures Is Studied by White House Aides

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1 — A "working draft" of a directive that would place significant new restrictions on contacts between Government officials and news reporters on the subject of foreign policy is circulating within the Reagan Administration, White House officials said today.

The directive was drawn up by staff members under William P. Clark, who began conducting the Administration's drive to curtail unauthorized disclosures of classified information shortly after he became President Reagan's national security adviser at the White House a month ago.

As drafted, Mr. Clark's directive would require all officials below the level of deputy secretary, which is the No. 2 position in a department, to obtain clearance from superiors for all contacts with reporters in which national security information is to be discussed.

In addition, the officials would be required to write memorandums based on their conversations with reporters and to file them with their superiors.

In an interview this evening, Mr.

Clark said the draft was "strictly a talking paper for purposes of discussion with members of the media." He said that its purpose was to find a mechanism to accommodate both the media and "those who are trying to follow the law" by reducing the unauthorized disclosure of sensitive information.

White House officials said Mr. Clark was hoping to issue his directive before the end of the week. One official said that David R. Gergen, Assistant to the President for communications, had expressed misgivings about the idea of sharp restrictions on contacts between reporters and Government officials. Mr. Clark said in the interview that "there is no debate on the subject at the White House," only a process of limited consultation with some officials.

In the last few weeks, various associations of news reporters covering the Administration have objected to Mr. Reagan's crackdown on unauthorized disclosures. Reporters have said that meetings with Government officials have been canceled, and that officials have generally felt less free in discussing all foreign policy information.

Mr. Clark met this morning with several State Department reporters and showed them a draft of his directive.

Larry Speakes, the deputy White House press secretary, said today that the Administration viewed several recent unauthorized disclosures of information as a violation of the law. Mr. Speakes said specifically that a report in today's issue of The New York Times about an Administration decision to repay some of Poland's debt to American banks was based on "classified material."